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Good News for a Sly and Retiring Spy

A small but galling piece of fallout from the West German spy scandal is that there is virtually nothing Bonn can do to prevent 48-year-old Hans Joachim Tiedge, the supposed spy-catcher who defected to East Germany last month, from collecting his government pension once he becomes eligible at the age of 65. Under the rigidly written laws governing such matters, sources concede, it doesn't even matter if Tiedge is eventually stripped of his civil-servant status by a disciplinary committee; he could still have his pension sent to him each month in East Germany, or wherever he is living, merely by filing a formal request.

A Candymaker Seeks Some CIA Goodies

Did the CIA bend over backward to provide the Mars candy company with commercially valuable information despite agency guidelines to the contrary? According to an article in The Nation magazine this week, Mars Inc. filed a Freedom of Information Act request in 1981, asking for documents about the chocolate industry in the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations—and received considerably more than the standard photocopies of the agency's extant files. The reason, says The Nation: a longstanding friendship between CIA Director William Casey and Forrest Mars Sr., the retired company chairman. Writer Jay Peterzell says that CIA staffers, spurred on by Casey, went out of their way to confect new charts, pictures and directories depicting Soviet cocoa imports and exports and listing Eastern-bloc candy concerns. The data could have been extremely useful to Mars—if the agency had acted faster. But not even Casey could speed up the process, and Mars didn't get its goodies until three years after its request—by which time, a former company executive says, they were of little use.

CHARLES LEERHSEN with bureau reports

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